Notes from AZ-SMART RFQ Conference
March 23, 2006

Q. Could you clarify the tasks you would expect to be completed in Phase 1, and which might be accomplished during later phases.

A. •Phase I
- **– Enhanced Small Area Model implementation**
- **– Interface/applications to facilitate data development**
- **– Reporting and Visualization tools**
- **– Up to $275,000**
  •Phase II
- **– + sub-regional model**
- **– Up to $225,000**
  •Phase III
- **– + additional models**
- **– Up to $225,000**

Q. More specifically: would you plan on replacing the County Level Model in Phase 1? Would you plan on replacing DRAM/EMPAL in Phase 1? Would you plan on replacing SAM-IM in Phase 1?
A. The goal for Phase I is to implement the framework and tools to at least be able to replicate the current SAM-IM with a number of additional tools for visualization and reporting. It is anticipated that the specific tools for developing a new sub-regional model will be developed in Phase II of this project.

Q. Would you consider a combination of tools that are not exclusively implemented within ArcGIS, if they were well integrated and addressed the functional requirements efficiently?
A. Tools that are not embedded in ArcGIS platform but are well integrated with ArcGIS will be considered based on the selected consultant's recommendation.

Q. Would MAG handle all data preparation tasks?
A. MAG and PAG will handle their respective data development and maintenance. This project is not anticipated to be a data collection and development project.

Q. The AZ-SMART RFQ specifies that this contract be a cost-plus fixed fee (CPFF) arrangement. I understand that in many cases sub-consultants are held to the same contractual rate structure as the prime consultant. Would our company, as a sub-consultant to another firm who would use the CPFF structure, be required to structure its fees in the same way for auditing or other purposes?

A. This would need to discussed during the contract negotiations process.

Q. What level of detail is in the Development database?

A. The development GIS dataset contains specific land use information for developments. The attributes of the dataset for MAG include:

DEV_NAME – Major Development name
DEV_ID - unique polygon identifier for each development
LUPOLYID – unique identifier for each polygon
ACRES - polygon area in acres
MPA - Municipal Planning Area abbreviation
LUCODE – Land use code for the polygon
TOT_UNITS – Total number of housing units in polygon
BLT_UNITS – Number of built housing units in polygon
TOT_SF – Number of square feet of employment in polygon
DEVSTATUS – Indicator of the stage of development progress
STARTYR – Estimated year of initial construction for development
ENDYR – Estimated completion date for development
NO_SUBS – Number of subdivisions within development
PART – Number of polygons per individual development

PAG too maintains a similar dataset.

Q. How does SAM-IM us the policy override function?

A. The min-max feature in SAM-IM is used as a land use feedback to DRAM/EMPAL. The minimum and maximums are based on the known developments, velocity curves and policies from jurisdictions.

Q. Is SAM-IM programmed completely in Avenue – including the algorithms going through a time sequence?

A. SAM-IM is currently based on ArcView 3.2 with the scripts programmed primarily in Avenue although Visual Basic is also used.

Q. What is the runtime for a 30 year SAM-IM projection?

A. The run time for SAM-IM is quite short as compared to the time needed for data preparation, QA/QC of the results and the inputs needed from external models. MAG transportation model runs are needed as feedback into SAM-IM and DRAM/EMPAL. This takes the greatest portion of modeling time. Just running SAM-IM for one time period can be accomplished in a few hours.

Q. Can SAM-IM be run for single year intervals?

A. SAM-IM can run for any time period. Usually the projections are for a 5-year period.

Q. To what extent are you expecting AZ-SMART in ArcGIS and to what extent are you expecting a hybrid version that would be coupled with ArcGIS?

A. Both MAG and PAG use ESRI products as their GIS platforms. Tools that are not embedded in ArcGIS platform, but are well integrated with ArcGIS will be considered based on the selected consultant's recommendation.

Q. Do you have any strong positive or negative opinion on open source software?
A. We do not have any strong feeling for or against open source software. This will need to be discussed at the time of contract negotiations.

Q. Is MAG taking full responsibility for data preparation or does the consultant team expect a large amount of time needed for data preparation?
A. MAG and PAG will handle their respective data development and maintenance. This project is not anticipated to be a data collection and development project.

Q. In terms of training, how much do MAG and PAG want to make changes to the system after the code is created or delivered?
A. AZ-SMART should not be a black box. The user needs to be aware of the processes being carried out by the tools and models. It is not anticipated that all users will program changes to the system.

Q. What travel model software is being currently used?
A. Currently EMME/2 is being used at MAG and Cube is being used at PAG. There is interest at both MAG and PAG in looking at other available transportation modeling platforms. This choice is outside the scope of AZ-SMART.

Q. Are there any plans for a sketch travel model?
A. Yes – currently at MAG a number of transportation modeling platforms are being evaluated. Although this choice is outside the scope of AZ-SMART, MAG and PAG would consider the recommendation of a sketch travel model for AZ-SMART.

Q. What level of geography is the land use maintained to? Is there any interest in maintaining the data at a parcel level?
A. Currently land use information is maintained as polygons with similar characteristics. There is some interest in maintaining data at the parcel level. AZ-SMART should be able to operate on polygons and/or grids.

Q. Regarding the basic steps and algorithms to do the future land use projections, do you want to continue with the current process or are you looking for different methods?
A. AZ-SMART should have tools to be able to at least replicate the current methods and processes being used for small area modeling. MAG and PAG are open to suggestions on other methods as recommended by the consultant.

Q. Is there more detailed documentation of SAM-IM available?
A. Detailed documentation for SAM-IM will be made available to the consultant team selected for the project.

Q. In phase 1 is there an expectation that only SAM-IM functionality will be made operational in the new platform, or will large area and county modeling also need to be made operational?
A. In Phase I of AZ-SMART is it expected that only the current small area modeling functionality would be made operational. This also includes the tools needed to support the sub-regional models currently in SAM-IM along with methods to exchange datasets with the other models.

Q. The solicitation is called an RFQ, but much of the narrative and reporting requirements appear to be from an RFP format. Do all of the standard proposal requirements listed still need to be used for the Qualifications Statement, or can they wait until or if the proposer is selected for further negotiations?
A. The items listed on Pages 9 and 10 are required to be a part of the submittal. The work plan (#3) does not need to be detailed but does need to show the proposer's understanding of the project and qualifications to complete the project.

Q. Is our University a qualified applicant for this project? The Taxpayer ID Certification only mention Corporation/Sole Proprietor/Partnership.
A. The University is a qualified applicant for this project. We have contracted with other Universities in the past.

Q. Do the items listed on page 9-10 of the Request for Qualifications, need to be included in the Statement of Qualifications or are those items listed as "boiler plate" language?
A. The items listed on Pages 9 and 10 are required to be a part of the submittal. The work plan (#3) does not need to be detailed but does need to show the proposer's understanding of the project and qualifications to complete the project.